

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, of which claim 1 and 2 are independent, are pending in the application. Claims 7-9 have been added and claims 2-6 have been amended, leaving claims 1-9 for pending for consideration in view of the amendment. In view of the Appeal Brief filed by Applicant, the Examiner has reopened prosecution and has set forth new grounds of rejection. Applicant has filed this amendment in response to the outstanding office action.

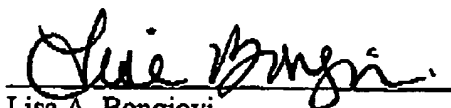
Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito et al. (U.S. 4,984,673) ("Saito"). The Examiner asserts that Saito discloses all of the claimed features including a tread 2, a riser 3, and a non-slip surface 11, 12 of a fixed length and width mounted to the whole step including the rear edge as broadly claimed.

Claim 2, as amended, recites the following: "An escalator step including a tread and a riser, the riser extending downward from a rear edge of the step and the tread extending a tread length from the rear edge of the step, the step including a non-slip surface of a fixed length and a prescribed width mounted to the rear edge of the step, the prescribed width extending in a same direction as the tread length and the prescribed width is less than the tread length of the tread." Saito does not disclose the claimed features, as Saito discloses that the non-slip surface is mounted to the entire length of the tread of the step.

Claims 3-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 3-6 have been amended to correct any purported indefiniteness.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, claims 2-6 are allowable claims. For the reasons set forth above, Applicant requests withdrawal of each of the rejections set forth in the Office Action. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa A. Bongiovi
Agent No. 48,933

July 25, 2005

Otis Elevator Company
Ten Farm Springs
Farmington, CT 06032
(860) 676-5743

Appln. No. 10/070,712
OT-4607